

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 were rejected pursuant to 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams.

Claims 8-12 were withdrawn due to a restriction requirement. Claim 13 was allowed. Claims 2 and 3 have now be canceled and claims 1, 5 and 6 have been amended.

Interview summary

Applicant's counsel and the Examiner conducted a telephone interview on November 2, 2005.

1. Counsel advised the Examiner that in response to the drawing objection that there was no element identified as "160", the reference to "160" was eliminated in the Specification.

[However, there was a typographical error in the requested Amendment to the Specification in that the number 150 was shown as being deleted rather 160 as appeared in the application as filed.] The Examiner then advised that the drawings as amended in Response to the First Office Action were approved.

2. Counsel and the Examiner discussed the fact that Williams did not disclose having containers removably attached to the outside of the housing. The Examiner advised that if structure specifying how the (food and water) containers were attached, instead of simply stating the containers were removably attached to the housing, the claim may be allowable.

FURTHER REMARKS

Claim 1 has now been amended positively claiming a fastener for removably attaching the two containers to the housing. The fastener may be any of a number of conventionally-used devices for removably attaching one object to another (e.g. snaps). Claim 14 and 15 specify a preferred embodiment in which a flange is formed on the outside of the housing for receiving the

protruding lip of the container. Claim 15 further requires a rotating latch mounted on the housing. When the container is attached to the outside of the housing, the latch is rotated over the lip of the container to secure the container to the housing.

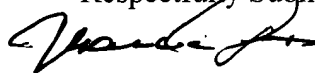
Providing multiple removable containers provides additional flexibility for the dog owner. For example, the owner can remove the container from the leash assembly and easily fill it with a drinking fountain and rinse the dish after food is placed in dish. Further, having multiple removable containers solves the problem which ensues when the user is walking more than one dog. When the owner stops to feed the dogs, it is often necessary to place the two food dishes in separate locations so that the dogs do not eat the food assigned to the other dog, particularly when one dog is on a restricted diet. In Williams, the dishes are permanently attached to each other with a hinge, substantially limits the owner's handling and use of the dishes.

Applicant submits that his invention as now claimed is not disclosed or suggested by Williams. Williams does not recognize the reasons for having removable container and therefore does not suggest a solution. Williams discloses a portable pet-feeding container, carried on a shoulder harness, which can be transported while traveling with the pet. In contrast, Applicant's design is an improved dog leash. Applicant's dog leash assembly is designed to be used with both retractable and non-retractable leashes and has multiple storage locations. Williams cannot be used at all with a retractable dog leash, preferred by many dog owners. Applicant's design, unlike Williams, permits the owner the convenience of retractable dog leash while including portable dog feeding dishes as well as storage for other items, including clean-up bags and keys. Williams does not provide storage suitable for the *owner's* personal effects.

As amended, claim 1 is believed to be patentable. Claims 4-6 which depend on claim 1 should likewise be patentable. Claims 14 and 15 specify the flange and latch shown in the preferred embodiment.

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Respectfully Submitted:



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